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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/639,426

08/13/2003

Toshikuni Yoshida

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04/21/2006

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EXAMINER

GARCIA, GABRIEL I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/639,426	YOSHIDA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Gabriel I. Garcia	2625	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1- 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mastie et al. (6,498,656).

With regard to claim 1, Mastie et al. teaches a print distribution system (e.g. fig. 1) in which plural printing apparatuses ((e.g. 12a-12d) are connected over a network (e.g. col. 4, lines 22-35), and printed data created by a data processing apparatus (e.g. 4a-4c) used in a sender (e.g. client) is distributed to plural distribution destinations (e.g. 8a-8c), the print distribution system comprising: an association information holding unit (e.g. fig. 1, items 6 and/or 10) that holds in advance information indicating correspondences between plural distribution destinations and plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations (e.g. col. 2, lines 41-62; col. 3, lines 6-35; col.6, lines 49-62; col. 7, lines 18-60, col. 8, lines 29-62); and a

print setting management unit (e.g. col. 2, lines 6-59) that collectively manages settings of print conditions of the plural printing apparatuses, wherein, when a request to print out the printed data is outputted to the plural distribution destinations from the sender, the print setting management unit, on the basis of information held in the association information holding unit, locates plural printing apparatuses used in plural distribution destinations specified by the sender, sets the print conditions for the plural located printing apparatuses, and activates printout of the printed data (e.g. figs. 1-3, and cols. 2 and 3).

With regard to claim 2, Mastie et al further teaches wherein the print management unit (6) has a function for setting common print conditions (e.g. fig. 3, print conditions or attributes) for plural printing apparatuses (e.g. 12a-12d) used in the plural distribution destinations (e.g. figs 8a-8c).

With regard to claim 3, Mastie et al further teaches wherein the print setting management unit (6) has a function for selecting whether to set print conditions specific to each of the plural distribution destinations(e.g. 8a-8c) or to set print conditions common (e.g. fig. 3, print conditions or attributes) to plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations (e.g. figs 8a-8c)..

With regard to claim 4, Mastie et al further teaches including plural printed data creation apparatuses (e.g. 4a-4c) for creating printed data of the plural printing apparatus and performing the printout (e.g. figs. 1-3).

With regard to claim 5, Mastie et al further teaches association information holding unit (e.g. fig. 1, items 6 and/or 10) comprises a database (10) recording information

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containing at least sender name of the printed data, a printed data creation apparatus name corresponding to each of the plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations, and inherently teaches respective mail addresses of the plural distribution destinations (e.g. mail or internet communication, where the printer could be located remotely and be access through the internet, and claims 8,10,15, and 17, describe the communication between the devices allowing the user, destinations and the printing devices to communicate)..

With regard to claim 6, Mastie et al further teaches having a function that, when a request for the printout is issued from the sender, prevents an error detected in a specific printing apparatus of the plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations from affecting the printout of other printing apparatuses (reads on fig. 1, and col. 7, lines 37-47).

With regard to claim 7, Mastie et al inherently teaches having a function that notifies the plural distribution destinations by mail (or internet, reads on col. 4, lines 22-35) at almost the same time that the printout has been started (reads on claims 8,10,15, and 17, which describe the communication between the devices allowing the user, destinations and the printing devices to communicate).

With regard to claim 8, Mastie et al inherently teaches having a function that, when an error is detected in a specific printing apparatus of the plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations, notifies distribution destinations using the specific printing apparatus of contents of the error (reads on fig. 1, and col. 7, lines 37- and claims 8,10,15, and 17, which describe the communication between the devices

allowing the user, destinations and the printing devices to communicate any error or status update between devices).

With regard to claim 9, Mastie et al inherently teaches having a function that, when printed data to be respectively distributed to plural distribution destinations is printed out in one printing apparatus (e.g. reads on fig. 3, only one printer can be selected to have the capability) , in order to avoid confusion of the printed data, creates additional information for each of the plural distribution destinations on the basis of information containing the sender name, the printed data creation apparatus names (e.g. col. 2, lines 21-38), and the mail addresses registered in the database(10) (e.g. fig. 1-3, e.g. mail or internet communication, where the printer could be located remotely and be access through the internet, and claims 8,10,15, and 17, describe the communication between the devices allowing the user, destinations and the printing devices to communicate)..

With regard to claims 10-11, the limitations of claims 10-11 are covered by the features of claim 1 above, these features could be program into the memory 10 of Mastie et al.

### **Conclusion**

2. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

3. Applicant's arguments filed 1/25/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With regard to Applicant's argument that Mastie'656 does not teach or suggest a specific apparatus can be located of the association information, and the print condition can be set when a request to print out printed data is outputted to the distribution destination from a sender. Examiner disagrees with Applicant's conclusion. Examiner asserts that Mastie teaches a specific apparatus can be located on the basis of the association information (e.g. cols. 2 and 3, which describe how a specific apparatus can be located based on associated information being reuse, allowing user(s) to use previous used criteria to select a specific printer, such as information as to a previous job being stored at a specific printer) and print condition can be set when a request to print out printed data is outputted to the distribution destination sender (e.g. col. 7, lines 48-60, clearly describes how print condition is reported to the user by way of a status information being reported to the print manager which controls the distribution). Clearly, the print manager can have information of a user (information, see col. 2, lines 41-62; col. 3, lines 6-35; col.6, lines 49-62; col. 7, lines 18-60, col. 8, lines

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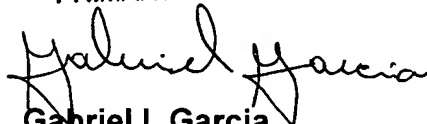
29-62) to select a printer by the association information such as the reusable information as to files being stored in a printer and using this printer based on this information.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel I. Garcia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7434. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. The Central fax phone number for this group is (703) 872-9314.

**CENTRALIZED DELIVERY POLICY:** For patent related correspondence, hand carry deliveries must be made to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the Central FAX number, unless an exception applies. For example, if the examiner has rejected claims in a regular U.S. patent application, and the reply to the examiner's Office action is desired to be transmitted by facsimile rather than mailed, the reply must be sent to the Central FAX Number.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

GABRIEL GARCIA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Gabriel I. Garcia  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit # 2625  
April 14, 2006